

**CITY OF ASHTON  
2191 NETTLE AVENUE  
ASHTON, IA 51232-7042**

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Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairman  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268.0001

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POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Ashton, IA 51232, Post Office Final Determination, Docket Number 1353512-51232

To whom it may concern:

The United States Postal Service has issued a final determination to close the Ashton, Iowa 51232 post office, docket #1353512-51232. Upon completion, delivery and retail services will be provided by the Sibley, Iowa post office. The posting date of this determination was November 7, 2011.

The City of Ashton, Iowa is formally appealing the decision of the United States Postal Service to close the local office for the following reasons:

**Ashton, IA was placed upon the list for closure due to past events, not based upon current status of the local post office.**

In 2005, the local post office was closed under an emergency suspension due to poor environmental working conditions. The office was closed and temporarily physically relocated to Sheldon, Iowa. Local officials worked painstakingly with post officials to reopen a local office on a "temporary basis" with the intent of achieving a full-time post office.

Originally, a meeting was held with Doug Morrow (then head of the Hawkeye District), Mike Ward of the Western Region facilities division, Laurie Slater-Trautwein (Post Office Operations Manager at the time) and various representatives from the Ashton community. The decision at that time was to build a new facility and have the postal service lease on a short-term, renewable lease. This plan then changed as Mike Ward contacted Ashton officials and told them that the moratorium on long-term leases had been lifted, but that the project would then have to be done on a bid basis. This process was then completed, but a final location could not be achieved due to the location selected by the postal service and the unavailability of the site for construction.

Progress toward a full-time post office has always been ongoing between the City of Ashton and the Postal Service. On April 15, 2010, Garry Mattox of the Western Area came to Ashton to hold a public meeting. At the meeting, his basic message was that there were going to be some changes coming in the postal service and he wanted Ashton to have a new 5 year lease so we would not get caught up in this as Ashton should have a post office. He held a similar meeting in Alton, Iowa earlier that day for the same reason.

**The community size of Ashton merits continuance of the existing facility.**

There were 2 announcements of postal office closings being studied in Iowa. One was announced in the spring of 2011 and the second coming later in the year. Ashton was included in the first list, which included 74 rural post offices. There were 2 Sioux City locations, 1 Iowa City location and 1 Waterloo location left off our listing because they represented duplication of post offices in their cities. We have attached a copy of this list (Attachment A) and sorted based upon population. Ashton ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in population on this list. The same procedure was applied to the second list announced (Attachment B) which included 176 rural post offices. There were 2 Ames locations omitted from this list as they were duplicates within the City of Ames. Ashton was not part of this list, but based upon population, there were on 3 offices listed with populations larger than Ashton.

The lists were then merged together (Attachment C) with Ashton ranking 11<sup>th</sup> of the 248 post offices being studied in Iowa for closure. This would mean that Ashton has a population greater than 95.56% of the post offices being studied for closure in Iowa.

In further support of the population premise, please review the following community comparisons:

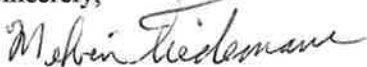
**Little Rock, IA:** The post office in Little Rock, Iowa was not included in either listing and their population is 459 residents. Little Rock is located 14 miles from Ashton, but 10 miles from Sibley. Ashton is located 7.5 miles from Sibley.

**Melvin, IA:** The post office in Melvin was not included in either listing and their population is 214 residents. Melvin is located 11 miles from Ashton. Melvin would be located 10 miles from Sanborn, which would be a larger community with postal operations.

**Overview and Closing:**

The City of Ashton feels that continuance of a post office is merited. We feel that the Ashton Post Office was placed on the list for closure because of the "temporary status" placed upon the post office beginning in 2006 and the lack of a full-time Postmaster. We have shown that our population is similar to or larger than other nearby communities and definitely larger than the vast majority of the other post office locations being considered for closure in Iowa. For this reason, we appeal the decision, but also would like to open a dialogue between the Postal Service and local Ashton officials. We would like to consider other alternatives to save the Postal Service money, while still maintaining a post office in Ashton. One idea in this area could be sharing of a Postmaster with another nearby community. We have shown that Ashton can survive on a partial day window and would assume that a similar community could as well. This would save the postal service labor costs while still maintaining routine postal service in both communities.

Sincerely,



Melvin Tiedemann, Mayor  
City of Ashton

<b>Attachment A</b>		
<b>Proposed Post Office Closings</b>		
<b>Early 2011 Announcement</b>		
<b><u>City / Community Name</u></b>		<b><u>Population</u></b>
Tabor		1,040
Earlville		812
Stratford		743
Elk Horn		662
Badger		561
Quasqueton		554
New Hartford		516
Ashton		458
Earling		437
Arlington		429
New Market		415
Lohrville		368
McCallsburg		333
Bronson		322
Kimballton		322
Libertyville		315
Lytton		315
Kelley		309
Rippey		292
Modale		283
Holland		282
Coulter		281
Mallard		274
Kensett		266
Fostoria		231
Woden		229
Hanlontown		226
Rembrandt		203
Alvord		196
Barnes City		176
Vincent		174
Harris		170
Randolph		168
Woolstock		168
Geneva		165
Swaledale		165
Lincoln		162
Braddyville		159
Searsboro		148
West Chester		146
St. Lucas		143

<b>Attachment A</b>		
<b>Proposed Post Office Closings</b>		
<b>Early 2011 Announcement</b>		
<b><u>City / Community Name</u></b>		<b><u>Population</u></b>
Goodell		139
Hamilton		130
Patterson		130
Masonville		127
St. Marys		127
Ferguson		126
Peru / East Peru		125
Luther		122
Marne		120
Morley		115
St. Olaf		108
Chillicothe		97
Climbing Hill		97
Grant		92
Sharpsburg		89
Webster		88
Aredale		74
Scarville		72
Orchard		71
Varina		71
Gray		63
Guernsey		63
Rodney		60
Thayer		59
Ottosen		55
Hayesville		50
Udell		47
Galt		32
Austinville		Unincorporated
Buckingham		Unincorporated
Kilduff		Unincorporated
Oran		Unincorporated
Pilot Grove		Unincorporated

<b>Attachment B</b>		
<b>Proposed Post Office Closings</b>		
<b>Expanded Access Study List - Later 2011</b>		
<b><u>City / Community Name</u></b>		<b><u>Population</u></b>
Fruitland		977
Middle Amana		581
Grandview		556
Lewis		433
Alleman		432
Conesville		432
Mystic		425
Callender		376
Cincinnati		357
Elliot		350
Diagonal		330
Kimballton		322
Quimby		319
Sheldahl		319
Middletown		318
Brandon		309
Rhodes		305
Riverton		304
Farmersburg		302
Mingo		302
Liscomb		301
Stockport		296
McCausland		291
Chelsea		267
Dedham		266
Deloit		264
Cumberland		262
Pulaski		260
Conroy		259
Meservey		256
Grafton		252
Pisgah		251
Crystal Lake		250
Montour		249
Washta		248
Keswick		246
Silver City		245
Cleghorn		240
Marathon		237
Grand River		236
Harvey		235

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<b>Expanded Access Study List - Later 2011</b>		
<b><u>City / Community Name</u></b>		<b><u>Population</u></b>
Van Wert		230
Olds		229
Thurman		229
Jamaica		224
Smithland		224
Stout		224
Joice		222
Cushing		220
Lineville		217
Blairsburg		215
Ollie		215
College Springs		214
Garden Grove		211
Davis City		204
Woodburn		202
Kamrar		199
Linden		199
Decatur		197
Onslow		197
Stockton		197
Wallingford		197
Elberon		196
Boxholm		195
Coin		193
Parnell		193
Blockton		192
Barnum		191
Shambaugh		191
Gravity		188
Thor		186
Tingley		184
Frederika		183
Bridgewater		182
Hillsboro		180
Alexander		175
Dundee		174
Castalia		173
Haverhill		173
Oakville		173
Pilot Mound		173
Randall		173
Calumet		170

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<b>Expanded Access Study List - Later 2011</b>		
<b><u>City / Community Name</u></b>		<b><u>Population</u></b>
Rose Hill		168
Kirkville		167
Palmer		165
Welton		165
Exline		160
Braddyville		159
Meriden		159
Millersburg		159
South Amana		159
Rowan		158
Linn Grove		154
Monmouth		153
Hastings		152
Reasnor		152
Williamson		152
Brunsville		151
Whitten		149
Clemons		148
Homestead		148
Castana		147
Clare		146
Lone Rock		146
Ricketts		145
Springbrook		144
Ayrshire		143
Webb		141
Floris		138
Havelock		138
New Liberty		137
Saint Donatus		135
Larrabee		132
Westfield		132
Archer		131
Dawson		131
Ledyard		130
Superior		130
Bouton		129
Brayton		128
Chester		127
Rutland		126
Weldon		125
Lanesboro		121

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<b>Expanded Access Study List - Later 2011</b>		
<b><u>City / Community Name</u></b>		<b><u>Population</u></b>
Watkins		118
Wiota		116
Derby		115
Macksburg		113
Somers		113
Martinsburg		112
Melrose		112
Cedar Junction		111
Promise City		111
Oto		108
Andover		103
Oyens		103
Arispe		100
Bradford		99
Zwingle		91
Garden City		89
Cylinder		88
Percival		87
Bradgate		86
Nemaha		85
Yorktown		85
Redding		82
Truesdale		81
Ralston		79
Dana		71
Shannon City		71
Plano		70
Thornburg		67
Dolliver		66
Gibson		61
Knierim		60
Curlew		58
Vining		50
Gillett Grove		49
Beaver		48
Hardy		47
Ellston		43
Benton		41
Jolley		41
Blanchard		38
Mount Auburn		15
Argyle		Unincorporated



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<b>Expanded Access Study List - Later 2011</b>		
<b><u>City / Community Name</u></b>		<b><u>Population</u></b>
Booneville		Unincorporated
Burnside		Unincorporated
Cedar		Unincorporated
Liberty Center		Unincorporated
Moscow		Unincorporated
Otley		Unincorporated
Prole		Unincorporated
Swedesburg		Unincorporated
Troy Mills		Unincorporated

<b>Attachment C</b>		
<b>Proposed Post Office Closings</b>		
<b>Combination List for Iowa</b>		
<b><u>City / Community Name</u></b>		<b><u>Population</u></b>
Tabor		1,040
Fruitland		977
Earlville		812
Stratford		743
Elk Horn		662
Middle Amana		581
Badger		561
Grandview		556
Quasqueton		554
New Hartford		516
Ashton		458
Earling		437
Lewis		433
Alleman		432
Conesville		432
Arlington		429
Mystic		425
New Market		415
Callender		376
Lohrville		368
Cincinnati		357
Elliot		350
McCallsburg		333
Diagonal		330
Bronson		322
Kimballton		322
Quimby		319
Sheldahl		319
Middletown		318
Libertyville		315
Lytton		315
Kelley		309
Brandon		309
Rhodes		305
Riverton		304
Farmersburg		302
Mingo		302
Liscomb		301
Stockport		296
Rippey		292
McCausland		291

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<b>Combination List for Iowa</b>		
<b><u>City / Community Name</u></b>		<b><u>Population</u></b>
Modale		283
Holland		282
Coulter		281
Mallard		274
Chelsea		267
Kensett		266
Dedham		266
Deloit		264
Cumberland		262
Pulaski		260
Conroy		259
Meservey		256
Grafton		252
Pisgah		251
Crystal Lake		250
Montour		249
Washta		248
Keswick		246
Silver City		245
Cleghorn		240
Marathon		237
Grand River		236
Harvey		235
Fostoria		231
Van Wert		230
Woden		229
Olds		229
Thurman		229
Hanlontown		226
Jamaica		224
Smithland		224
Stout		224
Joice		222
Cushing		220
Lineville		217
Blairsburg		215
Ollie		215
College Springs		214
Garden Grove		211
Davis City		204
Rembrandt		203
Woodburn		202

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<b><u>City / Community Name</u></b>		<b><u>Population</u></b>
Kamrar		199
Linden		199
Decatur		197
Onslow		197
Stockton		197
Wallingford		197
Alvord		196
Elberon		196
Boxholm		195
Coin		193
Parnell		193
Blockton		192
Barnum		191
Shambaugh		191
Gravity		188
Thor		186
Tingley		184
Frederika		183
Bridgewater		182
Hillsboro		180
Barnes City		176
Alexander		175
Vincent		174
Dundee		174
Castalia		173
Haverhill		173
Oakville		173
Pilot Mound		173
Randall		173
Harris		170
Calumet		170
Randolph		168
Woolstock		168
Rose Hill		168
Kirkville		167
Geneva		165
Swaledale		165
Palmer		165
Welton		165
Lincoln		162
Exline		160
Braddyville		159

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<b>Combination List for Iowa</b>		
<b><u>City / Community Name</u></b>		<b><u>Population</u></b>
Meriden		159
Millersburg		159
South Amana		159
Rowan		158
Linn Grove		154
Monmouth		153
Hastings		152
Reasnor		152
Williamson		152
Brunsville		151
Whitten		149
Searsboro		148
Clemons		148
Homestead		148
Castana		147
West Chester		146
Clare		146
Lone Rock		146
Ricketts		145
Springbrook		144
St. Lucas		143
Ayrshire		143
Webb		141
Goodell		139
Floris		138
Havelock		138
New Liberty		137
Saint Donatus		135
Larrabee		132
Westfield		132
Archer		131
Dawson		131
Hamilton		130
Patterson		130
Ledyard		130
Superior		130
Bouton		129
Brayton		128
Masonville		127
St. Marys		127
Chester		127
Ferguson		126

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<b>Combination List for Iowa</b>		
<b><u>City / Community Name</u></b>		<b><u>Population</u></b>
Rutland		126
Peru / East Peru		125
Weldon		125
Luther		122
Lanesboro		121
Marne		120
Watkins		118
Wiota		116
Morley		115
Derby		115
Macksburg		113
Somers		113
Martinsburg		112
Melrose		112
Cedar Junction		111
Promise City		111
St. Olaf		108
Oto		108
Andover		103
Oyens		103
Arispe		100
Bradford		99
Chillicothe		97
Climbing Hill		97
Grant		92
Zwingle		91
Sharpsburg		89
Garden City		89
Webster		88
Cylinder		88
Percival		87
Bradgate		86
Nemaha		85
Yorktown		85
Redding		82
Truesdale		81
Ralston		79
Aredale		74
Scarville		72
Orchard		71
Varina		71
Dana		71

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<b>Combination List for Iowa</b>		
<b><u>City / Community Name</u></b>		<b><u>Population</u></b>
Shannon City		71
Plano		70
Thornburg		67
Dolliver		66
Gray		63
Guernsey		63
Gibson		61
Rodney		60
Knierim		60
Thayer		59
Curlew		58
Ottosen		55
Hayesville		50
Vining		50
Gillett Grove		49
Beaver		48
Udell		47
Hardy		47
Ellston		43
Benton		41
Jolley		41
Blanchard		38
Galt		32
Mount Auburn		15
Austinville		Unincorporated
Buckingham		Unincorporated
Kilduff		Unincorporated
Oran		Unincorporated
Pilot Grove		Unincorporated
Argyle		Unincorporated
Booneville		Unincorporated
Burnside		Unincorporated
Cedar		Unincorporated
Liberty Center		Unincorporated
Moscow		Unincorporated
Otley		Unincorporated
Prole		Unincorporated
Swedesburg		Unincorporated
Troy Mills		Unincorporated